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HOME AND GARDEN

N.J. home makeover: Paint is key in tight-budget project

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For The Star-Ledger

N.J. Home Makeover is a new feature on NJ.com. To submit your renovation for consideration, email home@starledger.com with your full name, email address, phone number and town/city. Attach "before" and "after" photos of what you renovated.

When Chris and Trenesa Danuser moved into their 1928 Maplewood home two years ago, the plan was to give themselves time to get to know it before making any major changes.

"We bought the home and decided to live in the space to let us see the flaws, so we would be able to see what was important to change and what could stay the same," said Trenesa, an executive with a major cosmetics brand.

When it was time to update the 4-bedroom, 3-1/2-bathroom house they share with their daughter, 14, and son, 7, the couple decided the front entry, bathrooms, dining room and sunroom needed attention. They hired Montclair interior designer Robin Wilson, whose eponymous Manhattan design firm specializes in eco-friendly renovations.

The renovation

"We updated the home on a strict budget, and focused on eco-friendly options so we could live in the house during the renovation process," says Chris, a filmmaker and real estate broker.



In a renovation where there wasn't a lot of wiggle room, Wilson demonstrated the power of paint, selecting colors from Benjamin

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